

CAPITOL REPORT

SENATOR HARRY KENNEDY

MISSOURI STATE SENATE – 3RD DISTRICT

SERVING PARTS OF ST. LOUIS CITY AND ST. LOUIS COUNTY, AND THE COUNTIES OF WASHINGTON, IRON, JEFFERSON, REYNOLDS, CARTER, ST. FRANCOIS AND STE. GENEVIEVE



Dear Neighbor,

This year was especially unique, as my staff and I had the opportunity to represent urban, suburban and rural citizens of Missouri because of recent redistricting. Half of the Missouri Senate is elected every two years for four-year terms. Because district numbers and lines may change every 10 years, some citizens have either no Senate representation or two senators representing them for a short period of time.

On average, senators represent a district of about 164,000 people. However, when the districts are redrawn, it gets a little more complicated. It is up to each senator to decide whether they are going to represent the new area. I was elected into the Senate in December 2001 by St. Louis City and St. Louis County residents. After redistricting, I also decided to represent the new 3rd Senatorial District; otherwise, those residents would not have any Senate representation.

But redistricting wasn't the only challenge we faced.

President John F. Kennedy once said, "When written in Chinese, the word 'crisis' is composed of two characters: One represents danger, and the other represents opportunity."

This year was truly a time of crisis. During the 75 days of the 2003 legislative session and the two historical special sessions that followed, the Missouri General Assembly encountered both danger and opportunity.

We faced the danger of a budget that left essential programs strapped for funds. It was a budget that cut \$340 million from Missouri elementary and secondary schools, a move that forced schools to cut teachers and pack more students into each classroom. It was a budget that cut millions from valuable social services and mental health programs that serve some of Missouri's most needy residents.

Gov. Bob Holden called the Legislature back for a special session in June to try to find a way to restore funding to these departments. When the elementary and secondary education budget still remained dangerously underfunded, he again called us back in September during the annual veto session to try to secure additional funding. Despite the special sessions, it was impossible to restore funding.

At the same time we encountered these dangers, we also faced new opportunities. The troubled times encouraged a wave of activity from Missouri citizens. Each day, while reading through my letters, e-mails and phone messages as well as meeting with the wide variety of people that made the trek to the Capitol, I was excited by my constituents' desire to participate in the political process.

When communication with my constituents is as strong as it was this year, I truly feel that we can work together to help the people of Missouri.

Sincerely,

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Fall 2003

Kennedy works for Amber Alert, suicide prevention plan

Bills I sponsored:

Senate Bill 456: Allows a self-directed deferred retirement plan program for the St. Louis Firefighters Retirement System. The program would accrue interest based on self-directed investments rather than accruing interest based on the rate of return on the system's portfolio.

Senate Bill 513: Removes discretion of board of police commissioners as to paid vacation and holidays in some situations. Ensures St. Louis City police of-

ficers receive their promised weeks of vacation. Prior to this legislation being signed, vacation weeks could be cut.

Senate Bill 618: Requires the Department of Mental Health to develop a statewide suicide prevention plan. The plan would promote the use of programs to support people with depression, psychiatric illnesses and substance abuse disorders. It would establish a toll-free suicide prevention hotline.

House Bill 247: I managed this bill in the Senate. It allows special mobile equipment to be operated on the highways at any time under certain circumstances.

Bills I co-sponsored:

Senate Bill 30: Creates the Amber Alert system to notify the public when a child is kidnapped.

Senate Bill 266: Requires the Department of Mental Health

on the web
For a complete look at my 2003 legislation, visit the Senate web site at www.senate.state.mo.us.

to develop plans for people on waiting lists for services.

Senate Bill 248: Revises provisions regarding retirement systems. As a favor to the late Sen. Ronnie DePasco, D-Kansas City, I amended DePasco's Workers Memorial legislation to SB248. Sen. DePasco died May 24 of lung cancer.

Senate Bill 556: Modifies various provisions regarding the protection of the elderly. The Department of Health and Senior Services must provide the most recent survey of every home health agency on their Web site. The department must also maintain an employee disqualification list for home health agencies and investigate all claims of abuse and neglect within 24 hours.



Above: Sen. Kennedy and Lt. Gov. Joe Maxwell review senior citizens' issues in Maxwell's Capitol office.

My Committees:

- Aging, Families, Mental and Public Health
- Agriculture, Conservation, Parks and Natural Resources
- Economic Development, Tourism and Local Government
- Pensions and General Laws
- Small Business, Insurance and Industrial Relations
- Senate Interim Committee on Lambert Airport
- Joint Committee on Terrorism, Bioterrorism and Homeland Security
- Missouri Commission on the Delta Regional Authority
- Missouri Sportsmen Caucus (Vice Chairman)

Missouri SenioRx plan offers affordable prescriptions

The numbers say it all. According to the 2000 Census, 35 million Americans are 65 years or older. One in five elderly Americans takes at least five prescription medications each day. The average cost of a prescription ranges from \$27.34 for generic to \$60.60 for brand-name drugs.

Yet an estimated 35 percent of seniors don't have any prescription drug coverage.

In Missouri, a state program is designed to help the 13.5 percent, or more than 755,000, of Missourians age 65 or over. The Missouri SenioRx Program helps Missouri seniors pay for their prescription drugs.

SenioRx is offered as a public service to ensure that senior citizens on fixed incomes receive help paying the high costs of prescription drugs. The program pays 60 percent of covered prescription drugs for eligible seniors after they pay

an enrollment fee and meet an annual deductible.

Missouri seniors can save up to \$5,000 a year on their prescription costs.

Seniors must meet five eligibility requirements:

- Must be at least 65 years old
- Must be a Missouri resident for the past 12 months
- Cannot be receiving veterans' pharmacy benefits or be enrolled in Medicaid
- Cannot have prescription insurance equal to or greater than the Missouri SenioRx program
- Must have an income of \$17,000 or less for individuals or \$23,000 or less for married couples

The next enrollment period begins Jan. 1 and ends Feb. 28. Applications will be available in December, and benefits will start July 1, 2004. For more information, call the SenioRx toll-free hotline: 1-866-556-9316.

A look at this year's St. Louis area issues

Statewide interim committee to study police residency requirements

This year, I co-sponsored Senate Resolution 919, which created a statewide interim committee on police officer residency requirements.

The committee will have two main goals: to analyze the policies concerning the residency requirements, and to discover new methods to attract new officers and retain current officers.

I will continue to work for a satisfying solution for both sides.

Behind the argument

Those in favor of residency say:

- a police officer living nearby provides stability and enhances safety in the neighborhood
- the officer becomes more familiar with the conditions of the community

Those opposed to residency say:

- recruitment would be improved as the pool of eligible applicants increases
- police officers whose family members require special needs could reside in areas that could provide the care at little or no additional expense
- morale would improve, and retention would increase

Need our help?



My staff is here to assist you: (from left) 2003 Legislative Intern Samantha Acquista, Legislative Assistant Tina Eisterhold and Administrative Assistant Judy Martin



Above: Sen. Rita Days, D-St. Louis, and I often worked together on issues affecting the St. Louis region.

Victory for the people

SB 451 would have eliminated election of St. Louis circuit clerk

A bill that would have taken away the people's right to vote to elect the St. Louis City circuit clerk was defeated this year.

Senate Bill 451 would have allowed St. Louis Circuit Court judges to appoint the circuit clerk in 2007. The judges lobbied for the bill, but its sponsors withdrew it after I pointed out the flaws in the

bill and threatened a filibuster.

The bill would have put the clerkship and its staff of about 165 employees under the judges' control. The clerkship is one of the city's eight "county offices," including sheriff and collector of revenue, that are filled by election.

I have all the respect in the world for the judges — and for the people and their right to vote, too.

Home rule

Last November, Missouri voters approved amending the state constitution to give "home rule" to the city. Now St. Louis City can modify its responsibilities, and voters can decide how they want St. Louis to operate without waiting for a vote from Jefferson City.

The purpose of home rule is to engage St. Louis citizens in the process of evaluating and modifying our government for the good of the people.

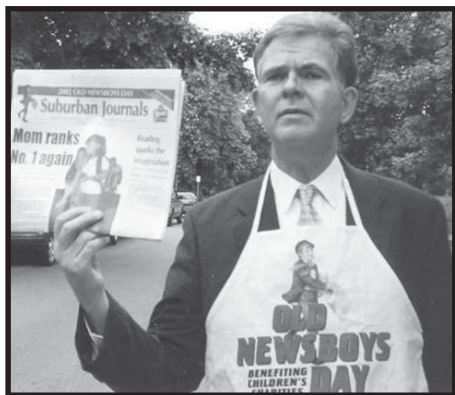
These decisions will affect the future of the city, the future of the St. Louis region — your future. There-

fore, please take an active position and make your desires known to local officials and the Stakeholders Assembly, which represents the neighborhood and business community.

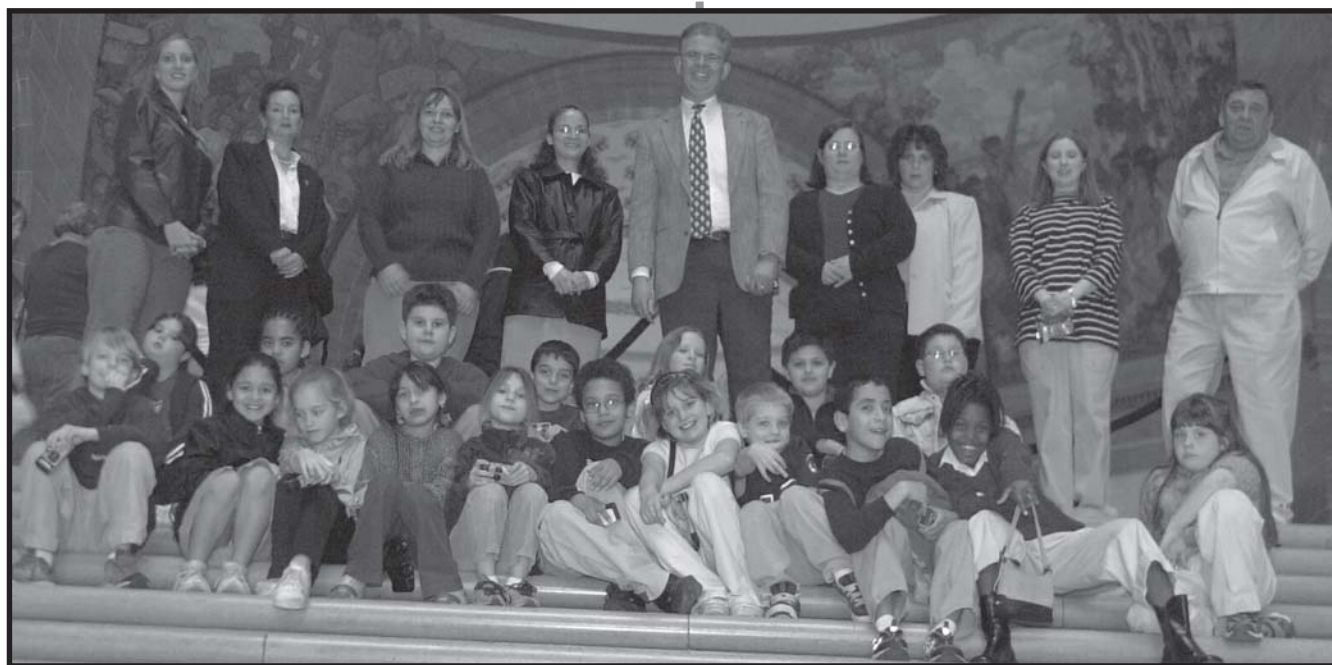
I believe we can resolve the police residency requirements and the circuit clerk position locally and not have politicians from outside the city decide St. Louis City policies and procedures.

on-the-web

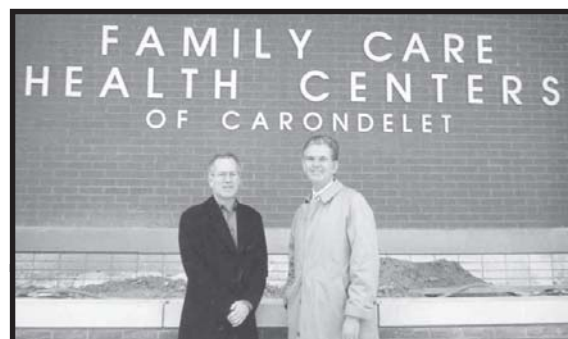
"Advance St. Louis" is leading the effort to reform the city charter. Visit www.advancesaintlouis.org.



Above: I sold newspapers as part of Old Newsboys Day, which raises money for children's charities. Right: I was honored to be chosen as a member of the Leadership St. Louis class of 2003.

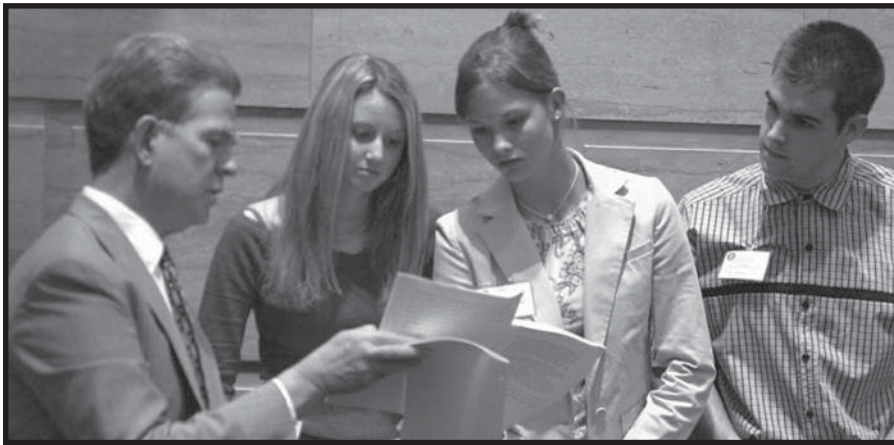


Above: St. Cecilia's fourth grade class from St. Louis came to the Capitol for a field trip on March 13.



Left: I celebrated the Laoitian New Year on April 12 in South St. Louis. Above: I toured the new Family Care Health Centers of Carondelet facility with Bob Massie, chief executive officer, on Jan. 24.





Left: I met with Elizabeth Gambaro, Meghan King and Paul Swanick on April 15 for State Youth Government Day. Above: De Soto Fire Chief Paul Meyer visited the Capitol in February to discuss Jefferson County issues.



Above: Members of the East Carter County R-II High School basketball team came from Ellsenore to visit on April 16. The team won first place in the Missouri State High School Activities Association Class 2 State Basketball Championship. Below left: I sponsored Capt. Antoinette Filla of the St. Louis Police Department for appointment to the Missouri Emergency Response Commission. The Gubernatorial Appointments committee confirmed her appointment on Jan. 29. Below right: Linda Boatwright, my in-district legislative assistant, and I met with United Auto Workers on May 7.



Spotlight



*your senator
your neighbors
your district*

Erma Bergmann: A pioneer, role model



**Bergmann
in 1947**

I can still remember that third-grade day. My baseball team was down one run. I nervously stepped up to the plate, took a deep breath and swung with all my strength.

My efforts paid off as I drove home the tying run and scored the winning run. As I ran the bases while listening to the cheers of my teammates, I felt like I knew what it was to be a big-time baseball player. Of course, I never quite made it to the "big leagues," but Erma Bergmann, a fellow resident of St. Louis, did.

Bergmann, who grew up playing baseball with her two brothers, was recruited by the Muskegon, Mich., Lassies in 1946.

On May 22, 1947, Bergmann pitched a no-hitter. Because of her worthy skills at the pitcher's mound, she also played on such teams as the Springfield, Ill., Sallies; the Racine, Wis., Belles; and the Chicago Blue Birds.

When her baseball career ended, Bergmann devoted her life to a new passion: protecting the people of St. Louis. She was one of the first policewomen in 1956 and retired from the police department after 25 years of service.

Bergmann was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame on Nov. 5, 1988, and the St. Louis Amateur Softball Hall of Fame on March 26, 1996. My office is now working to have her inducted into the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame.

Shop locally!

Shopping in your neighborhood supports your local economy. Small independent retail businesses create neighborhood identity and strong local economy. When people shop locally, tax revenues stay at home and benefit the local community with schools, police, fire and other services.

Local businesses spend a much larger portion of total revenue on local labor to run the enterprise, keep their profits in the local economy and provide strong support for local community activities. Please don't forget your locally owned, independent businesses.

Senator Harry Kennedy

A life-long resident of St. Louis, I am committed to promoting and supporting issues of human services and economic benefits to the City of St. Louis, St. Louis County and the new 3rd District. Before being elected to the Senate in December 2001, I served as a state representative for five years and was elected Democrat Committeeman of the 14th Ward of St. Louis. I also work as a Realtor.

Education: St. Louis Community College: associate's degree in graphic arts; University of Missouri-St. Louis: bachelor's degree in communications

Member: St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church, St. Louis Police Citizen's Academy, University of Missouri-St. Louis Alumni Association, National Conference of State Legislatures, Magdalen Community Improvement Corporation Board, Bevo Long Community Education Center Board

Recent honors: 2002 Excellence in Health Care Legislation Award from the Missouri Nurses Association, the 2002 Legislative Award from the Missouri State Medical Association, the 2002 Presidential Citation for Alumni Service Award from the University of Missouri-St. Louis and the 2002 "For kids, for now, for ever" Award from SSM Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital

Congrats!



I'm proud to announce the following honors from the 3rd District. Congratulations on your accomplishments!

Birthdays

Daisy Denny, 109, De Soto
Norma Farmer, 102, Farmington
Arid Yamnitz, 101, Farmington
Napoleon Braswell, 93, Marquard
Marge Schaad, 90, St. Louis

Anniversaries (all St. Louis)

Doris & Russ Callahan, 60th
Loretta & Henry Drury, 60th
Frieda & Bill Seckel, 56th
Ann & Tony Conroy, 50th
June & Robert Eueker, 50th
Marianne & Don Burnes, 45th

Accomplishments

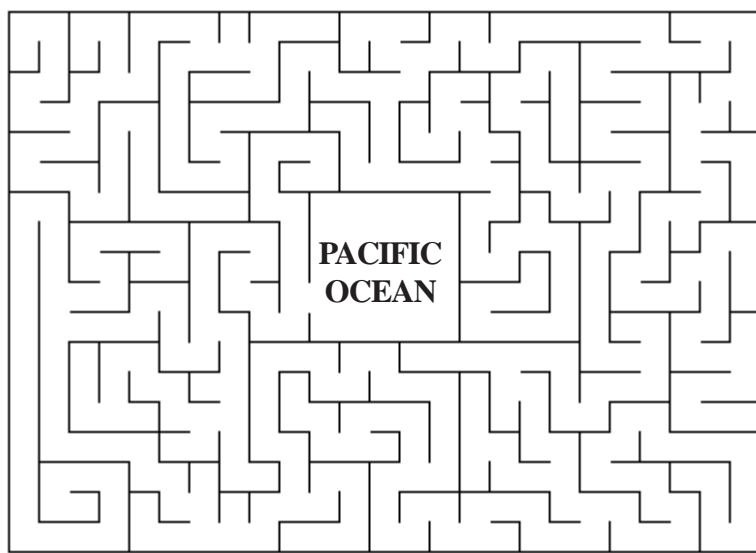
Sister Irene Radtke: 50 years as a Franciscan Sister of Mary
Rev. John Reiker: Ordained 25 years ago



Above: Betty Meyer of St. Genevieve was a finalist in the Oldest Missouri Worker contest. Do you have an accomplishment we should know about? Contact us!

2003 - 2006 Corps of Discovery Lewis and Clark Expedition Bicentennial

Two hundred years ago, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark embarked on a three-year journey to explore the West. The expedition, known as the Corps of Discovery, was sent by President Thomas Jefferson to find and map a water route to the Pacific. During their exploration, Lewis and Clark collected plant and animal specimens, studied Indian cultures, conducted diplomatic councils, established trading relationships with tribes and recorded weather data.



Left: Help guide Lewis and Clark from St. Louis west to the Pacific Ocean. Below: Use the hints to fill in the crossword puzzle.

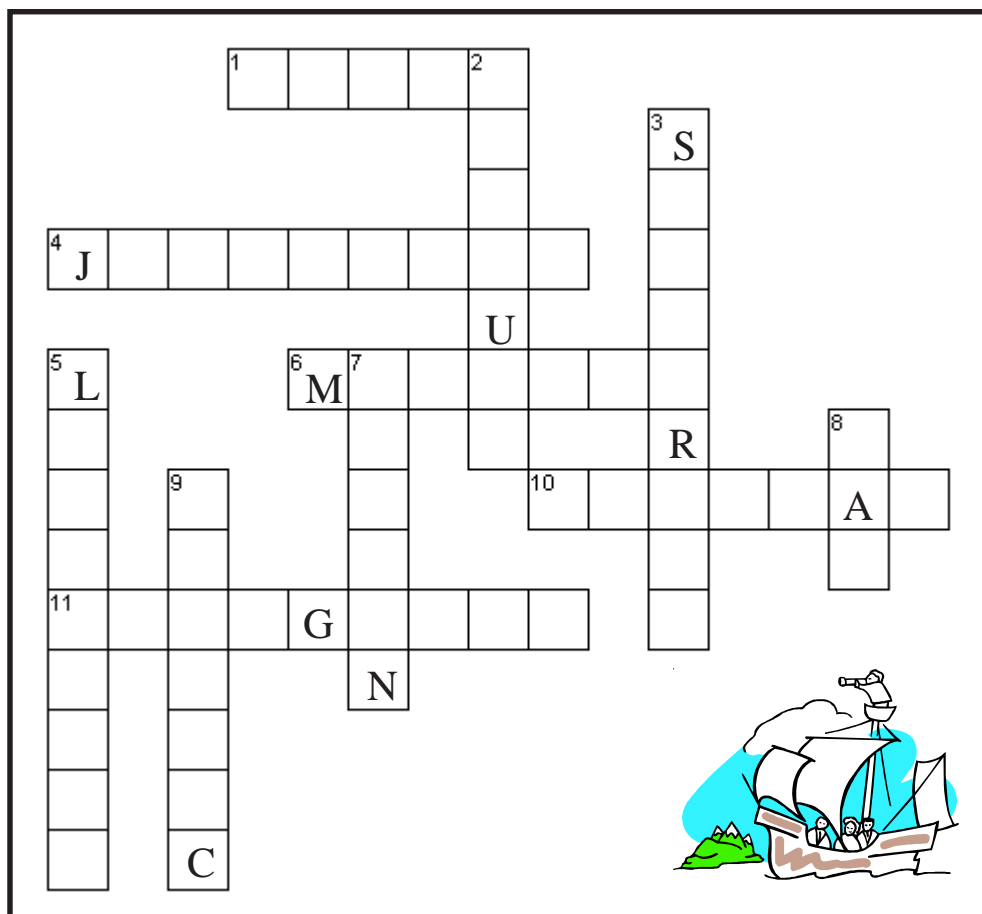
For more information on the Lewis and Clark bicentennial celebration, visit www.lewisandclark.state.mo.us.

Across

1. Meriwether _____
4. Lewis served as private secretary to this president in 1801.
6. Before the journey, Clark served in the _____. (LIKE MILITARY)
10. _____ Clark
11. The corps' Shoshone interpreter

Down

2. The explorers returned to this Missouri town in September 1806.
3. The Lewis and Clark expedition began in this Missouri town.
5. Lewis was appointed governor of this territory in 1807.
7. Clark served as superintendent of _____ affairs after his journey.
8. The expedition left St. Charles in this month in 1804.
9. The expedition reached this ocean in November 1805.



What's on your mind?

We value your input! Please number the following issues in order of their importance to you, with 1 being the most important. If you'd like to add topics, you may use the "other" category.

___ Agriculture

___ Children

___ Crime

___ Economic development

___ Health care

___ Higher Education

___ K-12 Education

___ Labor

___ Seniors

___ Taxes

___ Unemployment

___ Other: _____

___ Other: _____

Comments:

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____



E-mail me
updates

Visiting the Capitol?

If you're planning a trip to Jefferson City, please let us know. We can schedule tours at attractions such as the Capitol, Governor's Mansion or Supreme Court Building. These places are most popular from January through May, when the Legislature is in session, so it is best to schedule tours during this time at least three months in advance.



Useful numbers

JEFFERSON LANDING

HISTORIC SITE: (573) 751-3475

GOVERNOR'S MANSION: (573) 751-7929

STATE CAPITOL: (573) 751-2854

HIGHWAY SAFETY EDUCATION

CENTER: (573) 526-6149

RUNGE NATURE CENTER: (573) 526-5544

SUPREME COURT: (573) 751-3676

Left: The Giljum family and friends from St. Louis won a trip to Jefferson City in a church auction.

MISSOURI STATE SENATE

Senator Harry Kennedy

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Jefferson City, MO 65101

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